## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

**UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2351** 

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR BROWN/FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP RO (CAMPBELL, J. PHIL)

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN ROMANIA

- 1. AGATTACHE MADE FIRST VISIT TO ROMANIA FROM MAY 21-25 TO ACCOMPANY UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE J. PHIL CAMPBELL. AREAS OBSERVED INCLUDED BANAT (LATE EVENING) AND AREA EAST OF BUCHAREST BY TRAIN; FROM BUCHAREST SOUTH TO GIURGIU, NORTH TO PLOIESTI, EAST TO FUNDULEA BY CAR.
- 2. DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CAPISIZU STATED THAT WINTER WHEAT AND WINTER BARLEY YIELDS WOULD EXCEED 30 AND 40 QUINTALS PER HECTARE, RESPECTIVELY. SMALL GRAINS IN THE SOUTHERN

AND EASTERN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WERE REPORTED TO BE EXCELLENT. CAPISIZU STATED THAT HE KNEW THAT THE WHEAT CROPS IN HUNGARY, YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA WERE ALSO EXCELLENT. CORN AREA WAS EXPANDED BY 20 PCT ON STATE FARMS AND 5-10PCT ON COOPERATIVE FARMS, ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER. THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPANSION IN CORN WAS IN PART AT THE EXPENSE OF WHEAT.

- 3. SOIL MOISTURE. AFTER A DRY AUTUMN AND WINTER, HEAVY RAINS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SINCE MID-APRIL. IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ROMANIA, WHICH GETS ABOUT 500MM OF RAIN PER YEAR, RAINFALL FROM APRIL 15 THROUGH MAY 15 TOTALLED 150MM. IN THE CARPATHINANS AND AREAS TO THE NORTH PRECIPITATION TOTALED ABOUT 7 INCHES DURING THIS PERIOD. CONSEQUENTLY, SOIL MOISTURE SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN REPLENISHED THROUGHOUT MUCH OF ROMANIA IN THE BANAT AND AROUND BUCHAREST STANDING WATER WAS OBSERVED IN SOME LOW AREAS.
- 4. SMALL GRAINS. WINTER WHEAT CONDITIONS OBSERVED WERE GOOD

TO EXCELLENT IN MOST AREAS. STANDS SEEN TO SOUTH AND EAST OF BUCHAREST CONFIRMED CAPISIZU'S STATEMENT THAT IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHEAT WAS EXCELLENT. GRAIN WAS THICK, EVEN AND HAD GOOD COLOR. SOME FIELDS WERE INFESTED WITH WEEDS PARTICULARLY MUSTARD. THE AREA TO THE EAST OF BUCHAREST WAS SOMEWHAT UNEVEN AND APPEARED TO BE A LITTLE THIN. IT WILL NOT YIELD AS MUCH AS THE WHEAT TO THE SOUTH AND EAST OF THE CAPITAL. WINTER BARLEY STANDS WERE EVEN BETTER THAN WHEAT: EXCELLENT YIELDS CAN BE EXPECTED. HEAVY RAINS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE CAUSED CONSIDER-ABLE DIGGING IN SOME FIELDS. HOWEVER, AT THIS POINT GRAIN LOSSES SHOULD BE RELATIVELY MINOR. IF HEAVY RAINS CONTINUE, LOSSES COULD BECOME SIGNIFICANT. AT THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT FUNDULEA, BOTH WHEAT AND BARLEY WERE CHECKED. HEADS WERE DEVELOPING WELL. BARLEY WAS IN THE MILK STAGE AND WAS ABOUT 2-2 1/2 WEEKS FROM HARVEST. WINTER WHEAT APPEARED TO BE AT LEAST A MONTH FROM MATURITY.

5. CORN. WHILE CORN PLANTING GOT OFF TO AN EARLY START, COOL WET WEATHER DURING THE LAST MONTH HAMPERED CORN PLANTING AND GERMINATION. CONSEQUENTLY, CORN WAS MOSTLY JUST EMERGING FROM THE GROUND TO ABOUT 9 INCHES. WHILE EARLY DEVELOPMENT

HAS BEEN SLOWED BY COOL WEATHER, THE IMPROVED SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE FINAL OUT TURN OF THE CROP. MUCH HAND CULTIVATION OBSERVED. CONTINUED RAINS UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD MAKE WEED INFESTATION A SERIOUS PROBLEM. WHILE WARM, DRY WEATHER NEEDED FOR PLANT DEVELOPMENT AND CULTIVATION, THE FINAL CROP WILL DEPEND ON SUMMER PRECIPITATION.

6. ROW CROPS. SUNFLOWERS OBSERVED WERE MOSTLY IN GOOD CONDITION. STANDS RANGED FROM 1-14 INCHES TALL. SOME FIELDS HAD GERMINATED UNEVENLY AND IN A FEW CASES SKIPS WERE SEEN IN ROWS. FEW SUGAR BEETS WERE SEEN. THEY WERE QUITE LATE BUT

## SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE GOOD MOISTURE.

7. FORAGE CROPS. BOTH FORAGE CROPS AND PASTURES WERE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION IN ALL AREAS. LUSH STANDS OF ALFALFA, CLOVER, AND FORAGE MIXTURES (INCLUDING SOME WITH FIELD PEAS) WERE SEEN. RECENT RAINS PROBABLY HAVE HAMPERED HAYMAKING AND MAY HAVE HURT THE NUTRIENT VALUE OF SOME OF THE HAY. VIETS

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